

REMARKS

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the detailed remarks. Claims 19, 21 and 23 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 1-24 are pending.

Applicant has amended the drawings and the specification to clarify the purported discrepancies between the disclosure and drawings. Applicant rejects that any confusion was present as suggested by the Examiner, however, the amendments were made only to address the Examiner's concerns.

As to claims 3, 14, 20, and the Examiner's contention that "it is unclear how stop 52 can define an outer diameter," Applicant has amended claim 6 to schematically illustrate the "inner diameter" and "outer diameter" in phantom. It should be further noted that claim 3 specifically recites said stop extends from said circular member transverse to said axis to define *at least a portion* of an outer diameter. As illustrated in amended Figure 6, and as previously disclosed in the specification and claims, Applicant respectfully suggests that any purported discrepancy between the disclosure and drawings has been obviated.

Claims 21 and 23 were amended only to specifically address the informalities specifically noted by the Examiner.

Claims 1, 4, 5-7, 9, 10-13, 15-19, 20, and 21-23 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by *Neary* (4,068,510). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Claim 1 recites said plug comprising a rear segment which defines . . . a first engagement member . . . and a second engagement member. The Examiner specifically utilizes the end of key 68 to support the rejection. This is improper as under no just interpretation may a key be interpreted as a portion of a plug mountable for rotation within said barrel for rotation around said axis relative said barrel. *Neary* specifically recites that the *Neary* plug is element 59.

While it is well settled that terms in a claim are to be given their broadest reasonable interpretation in proceedings before the PTO, this interpretation must be consistent with the specification, with the claim language being read in light of the specification as it would be interpreted by one of ordinary skill in the art. *In re Bond*, 910 F.2d 831, 833, 15 USPQ2d 1566, 1567 (Fed Cir. 1990); *In re Sneed*, 710 f.2d 1544, 1548, 218 USPQ 385, 388 (Fed Cir. 1983).

Here, the Examiner is suggesting an interpretation that specifically contradicts and is not consistent with the specification of *Neary*. That is, *Neary* specifically discloses that the key 68 is and must be separate from the plug 59. The claims are allowable for this reason alone.

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9, 11-14, 16-20, 22, and 23 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by *Deckert* (4,444,033). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Here, the Examiner interprets “a barrel and plug 132 having a rear male segment (at 139, 156, 158 in Figure 18) with first engagement member (at 139) and second perpendicular engagement member 156 and a spindle rod 142 having a female end 144, 146, 152 (female end is hole and 152 which receives male pin member 156).” Again, this interpretation cannot be upheld on appeal. Although the Examiner interprets the plug as element 132, element 132 is actually the lower cylindrical portion 132 of exterior body 130. [Col. 6, lines 23-24.] As such, what the Examiner interprets as the plug, is more properly interpreted as the barrel within which the plug is mountable for rotation. In fact, *Deckert* specifically identifies the plug as element 136 which further supports Applicant’s contention that the Examiner’s interpretation is improper. All claims are allowable for this reason alone.

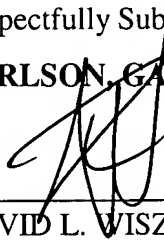
Claims 8 and 24 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Neary* or *Deckert* in view of *Jacobi* (2,348,135). The improper interpretations of *Neary* and *Deckert* as described above cannot be rectified through combination with *Jacobi*. The rejections of claims 8 and 24 are therefore improper for at least the reasons discussed above even if the combination itself - - which it is not - - were proper. Claims 8 and 24 are properly allowable.

Applicant believes that no additional fees are required; however, should any fees or extensions of time be required, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482, in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds, P.C.

Applicant respectfully submits that this case is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a teleconference will facilitate moving this case forward to being issued, Applicant's representative can be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Dated: February 16, 2006

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

These drawings replace the previously filed drawings. No new matter has been added.

Figure 2 has been amended to identify the lock housing 12.

Figure 6 has been amended to schematically illustrate the “inner diameter” and “outer diameter.”

Figure 10 has been amended to add reference numerals and more specifically define leader line locations.

Figure 11 has been amended to identify the lock assembly 10' as well as include additional reference numerals.

Figure 12 has been amended to include additional reference numerals and axis A.

Figure 13 has been amended to add reference numerals and more specifically define leader line locations.